

hostage. And it is partisanship. It is "We have to do this, take away power from the people."

Oh, isn't it supposed to be a government of the people, by the people, and for the people? But, oh, I think my colleagues across the aisle have forgotten that. They think it is government for the powerful, government that is in control of one party and one party's agenda. That is what they are thinking.

This attack on the integrity of our elections is a complete betrayal of the trust that the people have given elected officials because we have colleagues across the aisle who are basically looking at their constituents in their various States and saying: Your opinion does not count.

Think about that.

You are not good enough. You are not smart enough. You can't handle it. So, hey—Federal Government—we are going to come and save you from yourselves. That is what they think.

It is their constitutional prerogative to determine the time, place, and manner of their own elections. That is what is given to the State legislatures. It is their prerogative, and it is not the job of Congress or the President or a battalion of unelected, faceless, nameless, unaccountable bureaucrats to burn down the goalposts when things at the ballot box don't go their way. But that is exactly what the Democratic Party is trying to do this week.

So you never will be able to complain to them. They want to hold all the cards. The purpose of this latest power grab isn't to make the people feel secure. Its purpose is to inject hysteria into what should be a very serious conversation about actually protecting the vote.

Everything the people hear from the Democrats this week will have been scripted to minimize truth and maximize chaos. Remember, they want you to believe that elections are in crisis.

"We have to fix it."

But, fortunately, Tennesseans and the American people know better than to believe what they are hearing on the nightly news and to believe what is coming from the Democratic Party. They also know there is only one reason a political party would work this hard to make elections easier for them to manipulate.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled at 5:30 commence immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 612, Alan Davidson, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

Charles E. Schumer, Maria Cantwell, Patrick J. Leahy, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Gary C. Peters, Chris Van Hollen, Jeanne Shaheen, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, Thomas R. Carper, Mazie Hirono, John W. Hickenlooper, Edward J. Markey, Jack Reed, Jacky Rosen, Tammy Baldwin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Alan Davidson, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "Nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 64, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 3 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt	Inhofe	Rounds
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Burr	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Capito	Leahy	Smith
Cardin	Lee	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Sullivan
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Fischer	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wicker
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	
Hassan	Portman	

NAYS—30

Barrasso	Cornyn	Cruz
Blackburn	Cotton	Daines
Boozman	Cramer	Ernst
Braun	Crapo	Hagerty

Howley	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Johnson	Paul	Shelby
Kennedy	Risch	Thune
Lankford	Rubio	Toomey
Lummis	Sasse	Tuberville
Marshall	Scott (FL)	Young

NOT VOTING—6

Cassidy	Hoeven	Ossoff
Feinstein	Hyde-Smith	Sanders

(Mr. HEINRICH assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The yeas are 64, the nays are 30.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader.

TRIBUTE TO JACK BRAMMER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, when Jack Brammer interviewed me in 1984 for one of the first profile pieces of my political career, I quickly saw the high quality of his reporting. He was even-handed, fair, and honest—and has remained so throughout his 43 year career as the Lexington Herald-Leader's statehouse reporter. Jack has always been among the best journalists in the Commonwealth. Today, in honor of his retirement, I recognize him for standing at the pinnacle of Kentucky journalism for over four decades.

Jack Brammer is a lifelong Kentuckian. A native of Maysville, he joined the Lexington Herald-Leader in 1978 and has covered State politics ever since. We met in 1984 during my initial race for the U.S. Senate. Though many considered me an underdog, facing off against an entrenched incumbent, Jack took extensive time to interview me for his Herald-Leader profile. He even visited my parents in Shelbyville, sitting with them for hours to discuss my background and upbringing.

In today's era of journalism, when so much reporting takes place via text, tweet, and email, Jack's methods might seem startlingly old-fashioned. But he kept up his same dogged style, always going above and beyond to deliver the complete, unabridged truth to Kentuckians. He is a journalist in the best mold of the profession: unafraid to report the facts, presented without editorializing, and allowing his readers to come to their own conclusions. I will miss Jack's steadfast commitment to the truth, which can often seem sorely lacking in today's fast-paced, cut-throat media industry.

In his 43 years on the statehouse beat, Jack covered nearly every major

moment in Kentucky politics. Like me, he has a deep passion for our Commonwealth's history and has made critical contributions to the historical record through his reporting. He had a front-row seat to 10 gubernatorial administrations, dozens of legislative sessions, and countless significant political events. His deep, hard-won understanding of Kentucky politics sets him apart from nearly every other journalist in our State. I know everyone in the statehouse, from other journalists to legislators, to the general public, will miss him.

During Jack's retirement, I feel confident he will continue to share the wealth of wisdom he acquired over his legendary career. Jack has always been an enthusiastic mentor for younger journalists, taking generations of reporters under his wing to teach them the ropes of Kentucky State politics. As a graduate of the University of Kentucky and a member of their Journalism Hall of Fame, he has also spent time imparting his knowledge to the Commonwealth's future communications professionals. Even in retirement, he will continue to make a mark on our State.

I will miss Jack's reporting dearly. He represents the best of the journalistic profession, and Kentuckians have been fortunate to read his writing for more than four decades. I wish him well in his upcoming endeavors and look forward to learning what his future holds. I would like to express my personal gratitude for Jack Brammer's many years of service to the Commonwealth and encourage my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his well-earned retirement.

Madam President, Jack Brammer recently wrote an article in the Lexington Herald-Leader reflecting on his career. I ask unanimous consent the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, Jan. 2, 2022]

'THEY SAY HE LOVED THAT PLACE.' MEMORIES OF WORKING 43+ YEARS IN KENTUCKY'S CAPITOL

My mamaw, Bessie Price, often told me as a kid growing up in Mason County about once visiting a relative who had worked in the Kentucky Capitol.

Mamaw, a tenant farmer's wife who was rarely seen without an apron tied around her except when she was in church, didn't travel far from home in her life but the journey to the Capitol made a lasting impression on her.

"Oh, my, it's a grand building," she would say with a sparkle in her eyes. "I'm not sure if he was a janitor or a repair man. I once visited him there and I thought how marvelous it would be to work there. How blessed that would be."

How marvelous has it been for me to work more than 43 years in Kentucky's Capitol as a newspaperman for the Lexington Herald-Leader.

I have enough memories of the place to last—and comfort—me the rest of my days.

SPECTACLES IN THE CAPITOL

The Capitol often is the scene of news spectacles with hundreds, sometimes thousands,

of people. Remember all the teachers at the Capitol in 2018 and 2019 to advocate for education funding and protest teacher pensions?

The most spectacular events at the Capitol are the inaugurations of governors. I have covered 10 Kentucky governors—from Julian Carroll to Andy Beshear.

Inauguration Day is filled with pomp and pageantry. The morning parades with high school bands marching down Capital Avenue. The dignified swearing-in ceremonies in the afternoon, and the elegant inaugural balls in the evening.

When you see the new governor and first lady (or first husband, as was the case with Dr. Bill Collins when his wife, Martha Layne Collins, became Kentucky's first and only female governor in 1983) swirl in an embrace about the Rotunda floor to the melodies of a fine orchestra on inauguration night, it's like seeing a fairy tale come alive.

Each Inauguration Day has its own personality.

Certainly no inauguration was like that of Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. in 1979. Brown and his famous wife, Phyllis George, invited a host of celebrities to their celebration. Who could ever forget the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders in their certainly warm-weather outfits in the middle of December in Kentucky?

FAMOUS PERSONALITIES IN THE CAPITOL

Famous people sometimes visit the Capitol as guests of governors or the legislature.

Heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali came calling. He once held court over a group of reporters outside the governor's office. Soon the conversation turned to former Gov. A.B. "Happy" Chandler, who, in a meeting of the University of Kentucky's board of trustees on April 5, 1988 to discuss UK's decision to dispose of its investments in South Africa, said, "You know Zimbabwe's all n— now. There aren't any whites."

Chandler's remark created a national firestorm. Ali questioned the reporters in the Capitol on whether any of them had ever uttered—or even thought—that controversial word.

Other special guests at the Capitol over the years included singer Billy Ray Cyrus leading the Kentucky House in a rousing rendition of "Achy Breaky Heart," Sally Ride as the first American woman in space, songwriter Tom T. Hall entertaining a group of lawmakers in the Speaker's office with "Old Dogs, Children and) Watermelon Wine," Andy Williams launching into "Moon River," and actress Jennifer Garner speaking on the Senate floor about a charity for children.

And then there was Victoria Principal, an actress on the TV series "Dallas" that captivated audiences in 1986 when she saw in a scene dubbed "In Her Dreams" her supposedly dead husband in a shower.

During a news conference at the Capitol, Principal was asked by a Kentucky reporter if she were going to continue acting.

"In your dreams," she purred as the reporter (with the initials JB) turned as red as a Kentucky cardinal.

Once, an animal was a guest at the Capitol who became semi-famous. The Newport Aquarium brought to the Senate in October 2013 a penguin that got excited and used the bathroom on the floor next to the desk of then-Senate President David Williams.

My first paragraph of the story summed it up: "A penguin pooped Tuesday on the Senate floor near the desk of Senate President David Williams."

POWERFUL SPEECHES IN THE CAPITOL

Speeches are plentiful in the Capitol—from State of the Commonwealth addresses by governors to pleas from lawmakers seeking support for their legislation.

Two powerful speeches over the years come to mind. Both were in the legislature. Both changed votes.

Bobby Richardson, a Glasgow attorney, was House majority leader from 1976 to 1982 and House Speaker from 1982 to 1985.

One of his finest moments came when he gave a floor speech on a bill to prohibit in vitro fertilization in Kentucky. It is a complex series of procedures used to help with fertility and the influential Kentucky Right to Life opposed it because of the possibility that some fertilized eggs might be destroyed.

Richardson took the lead on opposing the bill. He gave a powerful speech, saying the technology was a wonderful way for a childless couple to become parents. He was successful.

In the late 1980s, many legislators thought AIDS was an affliction of homosexuals.

Belinda Mason changed minds about the disease when she informed House members that she had contracted it from a January 1987 blood transfusion during the birth of her second child.

The daughter of Democratic state Rep. Paul Mason of Whitesburg, who was a strong advocate for the poor, died in 1991 from AIDS.

SAD TIMES IN THE CAPITOL

The most solemn events in the Capitol have been the lying in state of famous Kentuckians in the Rotunda.

In my time, they have included Col. Harland Sanders in 1980, Gov. A.B. "Happy" Chandler in 1991, Gov. Bert T. Combs in 1991, Gov. Lawrence W. Wetherby in 1994, Legislative Research Commission executive director Vic Hellard in 1996, Chief Justice Robert Stephens in 2002, Gov. Edward T. "Ned" Breathitt in 2003, Gov. Louie B. Nunn in 2004, Supreme Court Justice William McAnulty Jr. in 2008, Gov. and U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford in 2015 and state Sen. Georgia Davis Powers in 2016.

One of the saddest was in 2012, when Gov. Steve Beshear's chief of staff, Mike Haydon, unexpectedly died of a heart attack at age 62.

The saddest death I know of in the Capitol was in October 1983. Sy Ramsey, Frankfort correspondent for the Associated Press since 1962, was found dead in his second-floor office.

Ramsey, 59, was a mentor. We had roomed together in New York City to cover the 1980 Democratic presidential convention.

PEOPLE IN THE CAPITOL

Oh, the people I've met along the way—from governors, other constitutional officers, legislators, judges, state employees from agency heads to janitors, lobbyists and my media colleagues.

Mike Moloney of Lexington was a tough state senator who had little sympathy for state officials who appeared before his budget committee unable to answer questions about their offices' spending.

One reporter dubbed him but never told him to his face that his media nickname was "the Bobby Knight of the Kentucky General Assembly."

But that reporter—also with the initials JB—will always be indebted to the senator for being willing to meet with him on Friday mornings in the Annex cafeteria during legislative sessions to talk off the record about politics and government. Those conversations provided good information about the workings of the legislature.

Another favored legislator was House Speaker William Kenton. He was nicknamed "Boom Boom" for his booming voice. He wanted to be governor. He also regularly broke wooden gavels when he pounded them at his desk to get order in the House. Splinters flew everywhere. Maybe our affinity had something to do with both of us hailing from Maysville.

A source of joy has been witnessing so many of my work colleagues in the Frankfort bureau going on to stellar careers. Diana

Taylor was chief of staff for Gov. Brereton Jones from 1991 to 1993 and later formed her own successful consulting firm. John Winn Miller became an editor, publisher, screenwriter, indie movie producer and author. Cindy Rugeley is a political science professor at University of Minnesota Duluth. Mary Ann Roser runs a communications consulting company in Austin. Jackie Duke became editor of BloodHorse Publications. Chad Carlton is president of C2 Strategic Communications in Louisville. Angie Muhs was an executive editor in Maine and Illinois. Jamie Lucke became a compelling editorial writer. Monica Richardson is now executive editor of the Miami Herald. Ryan Alessi teaches journalism and media classes at James Madison University in Virginia. Daniel Desrochers is in the McClatchy news bureau in Washington.

Several of my former Frankfort colleagues still are cranking it out as top-notch news reporters at the Herald-Leader: John Cheves, Bill Estep, Beth Musgrave and Valarie Honeycutt Spears.

Two of my partners in the Frankfort bureau became my bosses: Peter Baniak is editor and general manager of the Herald-Leader and John Stamper is deputy editor for accountability. They always let me state my opinions.

My admiration for my Herald-Leader colleagues extends to news people in other media outlets. They have been most tenacious and competitive and I am proud to call them my friends.

We all had a most wonderful building for our workplace.

LIFE WITHOUT THE CAPITOL

I will miss the Capitol, even the late nights in the frenetic final hours of a legislative session. I started working there in my 20s. I leave it in my 70s.

Perhaps a future relative of mine some day will say something nice about his or her next of kin who once reported, pondered, wrote, laughed and cried in the Kentucky Capitol.

I hope that person says of me and the place I worked, "They say he called it a grand building, filled with spectacles and news and, most importantly, interesting people."

"They say he loved that place."

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

MADAM PRESIDENT: Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, Room SD-423.

Sincerely,

ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY,
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. Robert Menendez,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21-67, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of France for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$300 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-67

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of France.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.

Other \$300 million.

Total \$300 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Follow-on Contractor Logistics Support to include contractor provided MQ-9 aircraft components, spares and accessories; repair and return; software and software support services; simulator software; personnel training and training equipment; publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor provided engineering, technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (FR-D-QAO).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: FR-D-STE, FR-D-SAC, FR-D-SAD.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: January 7, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

France—MQ-9 Follow-on Contractor Logistics Support

The Government of France has requested to buy follow-on Contractor Logistics Support to include contractor provided MQ-9 aircraft components, spares and accessories; repair and return; software and software support services; simulator software; personnel training and training equipment; publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor provided engineering, technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$300 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve France's capability to meet current and future threats by ensuring the operational readiness of the French Air Force. France's MQ-9 aircraft fleet provides Intelligence, Surveil-

lance, and Reconnaissance support that directly supports U.S. and coalition operations around the world. France will have no difficulty absorbing these support services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be General Atomics, Poway, CA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to France.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SPRINGDALE POLICE CHIEF MIKE PETERS

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Springdale Police Chief Mike Peters, who spent his career serving his community with unwavering commitment. His retirement as chief of the Springdale Police Department will surely leave big shoes to fill.

Chief Peters' dedication to his job is a testament to his character and courage, beginning with his pledge to serve his country in the U.S. Army. Being in uniform for more than 5 years taught him countless lessons about the importance of leading by example and serving others. That service helped shape him into the leader he is today and gave him the tools to build a 30-year career in the Springdale Police Department.

Peters' Arkansas roots also helped inspire him to stay in the Natural State and serve his community. He graduated from the University of Arkansas and demonstrated his abilities in service and in the classroom, which helped his career advancement.

After his time in the Army and the Arkansas National Guard, Peters worked in investigations and drug enforcement. He thrived in this role and was promoted to sergeant in 1998. After working as a shift supervisor for 4 years, he was promoted to Lieutenant in 2001 and then captain in 2004. His clear devotion to the force and record of time and time again sacrificing for his community allowed him to advance quickly. Peters' served rotations in administration, patrol, and investigations before being promoted to Springdale chief of police on September 11, 2015.

His accomplishments and accolades have been plentiful and essential, including the design and construction of the Criminal Justice Complex, which houses the new police department and district court and its offices; graduating from the FBI National Academy; and memberships within the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police, and the FBI National Academy Association.